

Message Text

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66

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-02 OPR-02 A-01 /081 W

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R 100405Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 441

INFO AMEMBASY CANBERRA

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 3332

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: QUAKER DEMONSTRATION AT EMBASSY ON AID TO VIET NAM

REF: WELLINGTON 3315

1. NEW ZEALAND FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 10 HELD SILENT VIGIL IN FRONT OF EMBASSY FROM NOON TO TWO PM LOCAL. APPROXIMATELY A DOZEN DEMONSTRATORS STOOD QUIETLY IN FRONT OF BUILDING, THREE CARRYING PLACARDS AND TWO HANDING OUT MIMEOGRAPHED SHEET WITH FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

WE ARE HOLDING THIS SILENT VIGIL TO EXPRESS TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT OUR DEEP CONCERN AT THEIR REFUSAL TO GRANT TO THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE LICENSES TO SEND FISH NETS AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS TO VIETNAM. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS MADE AN ARBITRARY DISTICTION BETWEEN 'HUMANITARIAN' AND 'ECONOMIC' AID; AFSC HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO SEND MILK POWDER TO VIETNAM TO HELP FEED PEOPLE, BUT NOT ALLOWED TO SEND FISH NETS TO HELP PEOPLE THERE TO FEED THEMSELVES.

IN 1973 WHILE THE WAR WAS STILL RAGING, AFSC APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED LICENCES TO SEND THESE SAME ITEMS, YET FOR THEM TO DO SO TODAY, WOULD MAKE THE BOARD OF AFSC LIABLE

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TO SERIOUS FINES AND IMPRISONMENT. IF YOU SHARE OUR

CONCERN AT THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT,
PLEASE EXPRESS THIS TO THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES
AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. NEW ZEALAND FRIENDS (QUAKER)
SERVICE COMMITTEE.

2. AT THE END OF THE DEMONSTRATION ONE OF THE QUAKERS
ASKED TO SEE AN EMBASSY OFFICER AND MET WITH PAO. HE
STATED PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO ASSURE HIMSELF AND HIS
FELLOW DEMONSTRATORS THAT THE EMBASSY WAS AWARE THAT
N.Z. QUAKERS WERE SUPPORTING THE ACTION OF THEIR FRIENDS
IN THE UNITED STATES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975WELLIN03332
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750391-0089
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751160/aaaaccfi.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 WELLINGTON 3315
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUL 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUAKER DEMONSTRATION AT EMBASSY ON AID TO VIET NAM
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006